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CANADIAN ACCESSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON ROAD TRAFFIC

On December 23rd, 1965, Canada deposited its instrument of accession to the 1947 U.N. Convention on Road Traffic with the Secretary General of the U.N. The Convention, which has already been ratified or acceded to by seventy-five countries will enter into force for Canada on January 22, 1966. The provisions of the Convention cover all aspects of international road transport, including basic rules of the road; some signs and signals; registration of motor vehicles, technical specifications to which roads and vehicles used by international traffic must conform, and distinguishing signs for vehicles.

The main impetus for Canadian participation in the Convention arises from the difficulties Canadian motorists can experience abroad because they do not have internationally accepted driving licenses and car registration plates. One of the purposes of the Convention is to enable motorists travelling in foreign countries to be issued with an "International Driving Permit" which is valid in the territory of all contracting states with the exception of the territory of the contracting states where the permit was issued. Such a

permit is based on certain prescribed standards and is intended to facilitate international tourism. Automobile associations across Canada have urged ratification and implementation of the Convention.

Since the subject matter of the Convention relates to matters within provincial jurisdiction, before taking final steps to accede to the Convention on behalf of Canada the Federal Government sought and obtained assurances from the provinces, that if required they would be prepared to implement its provisions.

It was thought particularly fitting that Canada should become a party to this multilateral convention during the year which has been chosen as International Co-operation Year.